

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0103

24 MAY 1992



SARD-PP

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Increased Use of Nonprofit Agencies Under the
Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program in Army
Acquisition Programs

- References:
1. FAR Subpart 8.7, Acquisition from the Blind and Other Severely Handicapped
 2. FAR 8.001, Priorities for Use of Government Supply Sources
 3. Section 8082 of the FY 1992 DoD Appropriations Act (P.L. 102-172)
 4. Section 8064A, FY 1992 DoD Appropriations Act

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Act established an important program to support, with jobs and training, persons who are blind or who have other severe disabilities. As addressed in FAR Subpart 8.7 (Ref. 1.) the JWOD Program is administered by the President's Committee for Purchase from the Blind and Other Severely Handicapped (the "Committee"). The primary function of the Committee is to decide which commodities and services procured by the Government are suitable for provision by nonprofit agencies employing persons with severe disabilities. The Committee is then authorized to place these commodities and services on its Procurement List. To accomplish its mission, the Committee works with the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and the NISH, two non-governmental nonprofit organizations.

Under FAR 8.001 (Ref. 2), the first priority source for acquisition of services, before contracting with commercial sources, are services on the "Procurement List" provided by nonprofit agencies (also referred to as workshops and work centers) qualified to participate in the JWOD Program. For supplies, these agencies are second in priority only to the Federal Prison Industries.

The Ref. 3. legislation continued the FY 91 enhanced status of "qualified nonprofit agencies for the blind or other severely handicapped" by mandating that they shall be afforded the maximum practicable opportunity to participate as subcontractors and suppliers in the performance of DoD contracts. This change allows Army prime contractors to continue, during FY 1992, to credit awards to nonprofit agencies for the blind and other severely handicapped toward meeting their small business subcontracting goals.

In addition, Ref. 4. provided that qualified organizations employing the severely disabled (either non-profit or for profit business entities) can qualify as disadvantaged small business concerns under the Mentor-Protege Program.

At a time when the media and the business community are focusing attention on the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is also appropriate to reemphasize the Army's support for the JWOD Program. While the Army has increased its purchases of JWOD commodities and services in recent years, there is room for further improvement as well as some new opportunities and incentives. In particular, it is important to assure that office supplies, like those on the Committee's Procurement List, are procured from GSA, and to continually be on the lookout for services that can be provided by people with severe disabilities under the JWOD Program.

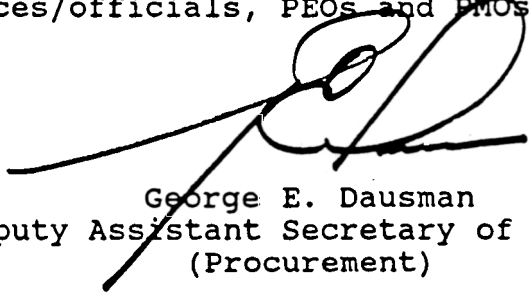
All acquisition managers and professionals should increase their knowledge and awareness of the JWOD Program and its potential benefits for their programs/acquisition requirements. This can be done effectively by attendance at NIB and NISH conferences, or inviting NIB/NISH or qualified area nonprofit agencies to participate in Army procurement fairs.

As a minimum, one individual or office at each contracting activity and contracting office should be assigned the responsibility to "get smart" about the JWOD program, to work with NIB and NISH, and to be able to advise contractors and Government personnel about the capabilities of qualified nonprofit agencies/workshops to provide required services and supplies. Because of the recent statutory linkage of the JWOD Program to the small disadvantaged business utilization program, this individual should work with the SADB Office in identifying opportunities for the workshops and work centers.

Purchasing commodities and supplies from nonprofit agencies under the JWOD Program will not only benefit Americans with severe disabilities, and help them be productive members of American society, but will also provide the Army and our contractors with reliable supply sources and high-quality products and services.

Questions on the JWOD Program, the Committee's Procurement List, and related subjects, may be directed to the Department of Army Representative to the President's Committee for Purchase from the Blind and Other Severely Handicapped, Mr. Chester A. Kowalczyk, DALO-TSZ, at 703/614-3952 or DSN 224-3952.

This memorandum shall be disseminated to all contracting offices, SADBUs offices/officials, PEOs and PMOs.



George E. Dausman
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Procurement)

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